be taken up. Let the Minister make his introductory remarks. If Members want, let them speak tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

## THE MOTOR VEHICLES AMENDMENT BILL, 1994

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TPTLER): Madam Vice-Chairperson, I move:

> That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, to be taken into consideration.

With your permission, I would like to say a few words about the proposed amendments before I move the motion for consideration of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994 by this House.

The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59) ot 1988, a Central Act, consolidates and rationalises various laws regulating Read Transport in the country. The Act was framed with a view to revise the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (4 of 1939). After the coming into force of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, Government received a number of representations/suggestions from the State Governments, transport operators and members of public regarding inconvenience faced by them while implementing provisions of the new Act/Rules framed thereunder. To examine and review the cntre; Act in the light of these representations, a Review Committee was constituted by the Government. Recommendations of the Review Committee were examined i« consultation with the State Governments. The Government also considered the number of representations received from the trade sector and the public regarding making of additional provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which were received much after finalisation of the report of the Committe*.

The Bill now before the House has been prepared keeping in view the reeommen-dations of the Review Committee as also ether suggestions. Some of the important provisions of the Bill provide for the following;:.—

(i) modification and amplification *at* certain definitions of new type Ol reticles;

(ii) simplification of procedure for grant of driving licences;

(iii) putting restriction on the alteration of vehicles.

(iv) certain exemptions for vehicles running on non-polluting fuels;

(v) ceiling on individuals or company for holding permits removed to curb 'benami' holdings;

(vi) States authorised to appoint one or more State Transport Appelate Tribunals;

(vii) increase in the amount of compensation to the victims of hit and run cases; and

(viii) removal of time lmit for filing, of applications by road accident victims for compensation.

The Law Commission in its 119th Report had recommended to amend the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to provide therein that every application for a claim be mads to the Claims Tribunal having jurisdiction over the area in whieh the accident occurred or the Claims Tribunal within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the claimant resides or carries on business or within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the defendant resides, at the option of the claimant. This recommeodation of the Law Commission has been accepted and the Bill also seeks to make necessary amendments based on this recommenda-tion of the Law Commission.

The Bill also seeks te provide for a new pre-determined formula for pay-went of compensation to road accident victims on the basis of age/income. In case of the pre-determined formula introduced in the new Bill, the claimant

shall not be required to plead or estab lish that death or the permanent disability was due to any wrongful act or neg-lect or default of the owner of the vehicle. The Central Government has also been given powers to amend the schedule indicating the rate of compensation from time to time. It is expected that with this provision not only the road accident victims would be appropriately and ex-peditiously compensated but there would be a substantial reduction in the pen-dency of cases with the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals.

Madam, I commend the Bill for the consideraiton of the House.

*The question was proposed.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) : I think the House has agreed that those who want to participate in the debate on this Bill would like to speak tomorrow. So, the House is adjourned till 11.00 A.M. to morrow. Thank you.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 10th August, 1994.